



NORTHWEST COLORADO FIRE MANAGEMENT UNIT

NEWS RELEASE

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Lightning sparks wildfires in Northwest Colorado

Craig, Colo. – Yesterdays wildland fires were all on Bureau of Land Management land and caused by lightning.

The Juniper Fire, 23 miles west of Craig off Moffat County Road 53, was contained by 9 p.m. at three acres. Responding to the incident were two Moffat County Sheriff's Department engines, two BLM engines, the Storm Peak eight-person fire module and a single engine air tanker (SEAT). The SEAT dropped one load of retardant to slow the fire's advance toward private land. The fire module and BLM engines will return today to continue mop-up and reinforce the containment line.

There were four wildland fires reported in Rio Blanco County yesterday afternoon. The Hay Canyon Fire is about 30 miles west of Meeker just south of Highway 64 on the Northern point of Calamity Ridge and one acre. The responding BLM squad and one engine worked the north and east flanks to keep the fire from spreading those directions towards private land. The fire will be allowed to burn to natural barriers on the other flanks in order to obtain desired benefits to the land with fire personnel monitoring its progress.

The Rangely Volunteer Fire Department responded to the White Face Fire with two engines and had the fire contained by 7:30 p.m. at one tenth acre. The Fletcher Gulch fire was contained at 3:15 p.m. at one tenth acre by BLM engine 1642.

Fire crews were unable to reach the wildland fire reported at 6:44 p.m. in west Rio Blanco County due to rain and conditions. BLM fire personnel are returning to that location today.

Fire crews observed single tree torching and spotting on all the incidents yesterday. They also report that annual grasses are cured and carrying fire. Perennial grasses are green but are also carrying fire. Even though there has been some rain across the area, grass and other fine fuels dry out quickly and become receptive to fire.

Fire danger is moderate in Northwest Colorado but fire managers urge people to remain vigilant with using fire outdoors.

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